

WYCOMBE FACE LARRY

WYCOMBE Wanderers will meet up with last year's captain Larry Pritchard tomorrow (Saturday) when they play their third Rothmans Isthmian League game of the season. They visit Sutton United at Gander Green Lane.

Pritchard, who spent several successful seasons at Loakes Park, is regarded as one of the finest footballers in the amateur game — or "open" game as it is now called. He decided to join United in the close season having won the Isthmian League three times with the Blues.

Larry is not the only significant capture Sutton made dur-

ing the summer months. Two of Kingstonian's top players also signed on. Mick Preston, the England amateur centre half last year and experienced goalkeeper John Overton will have strengthened the side considerably. Another new player is Mick Fountain, a defender from Redhill, while Chris Procter — a prolific goalscorer in the Spartan League a couple of seasons ago — joined from Walton and Hersham.

One other new player who will miss tomorrow's game is Alan Ives, who spent several seasons as Tooting and Mitcham's top marksman. Ives is on holiday and misses four matches.

This must be good news for the Blues as Ives has already shown his worth with Sutton this season. He scored the only goal against a Chelsea XI containing first teamers Eddie Macreadie, John Dempsey, Marvin Hinton, Ian Britton and John Hollins and also netted the only goal that beat Slough Town in their opening league match of the season. Sutton's other friendly results were a 1-1 draw with Southern League Bognor Regis and a 6-2 win over Croydon.

On Tuesday, United suffered their first defeat when they went down 2-0 at Ilford. Apparently, Ilford had only two chances throughout the 90 minutes and took them both while Sutton

missed several of theirs. Ilford, with Ray Eaton, Peter Deadman, Roger Day and Tony Turley to name just a few, will be a side to be reckoned with this term.

Wanderers, with two victories behind them, are unlikely to change the side, which needs more experience together, before it really starts to play at its best. Goals tomorrow, however, will be at a premium with two of the best defences in the division on show.

A Sutton victory over Wanderers is long overdue. On March 23 last term they took their first point from the Blues in eight league meetings when they drew 0-0 at Loakes Park.